

Report of the Transition Leadership Team

“I believe that within four years, South Carolina can be known as the most fairly funded, innovative, and choice-driven public school system in the nation. It’s time to roll up our sleeves and get to work.”

–Jim Rex

Introduction

On November 20, 2006, just three days after he was certified as South Carolina’s sixteenth State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Jim Rex began working to implement the comprehensive vision for education reform outlined during his successful campaign. Marshalling the talent and expertise of seventy-eight South Carolinians from all walks of life, guided by distinguished former Governor and U.S. Secretary of Education Dick Riley, Dr. Rex’s transition leadership team began the task of recommending reforms in five areas crucial in improving South Carolina’s schools:

- Accelerating innovation;
- Reforming accountability to ensure success;
- Expanding choices for parents and students;
- Promoting fair and equitable school funding; and
- Elevating and reinvigorating the teaching profession.

The Transition Leadership Team completed its work on January 9, 2007, developing a total of ninety-seven recommendations for state action to promote achievement of Dr. Rex’s vision. The team’s recommendations will be the catalyst for a statewide discussion of comprehensive school reform, furthering Dr. Rex’s goal of creating “the most fairly funded, innovative, choice-driven public school system in the nation.”